

CLIMATE WISE NEWS

April 2002

This newsletter is distributed as a service of the Seattle and Northwest Region's Climate Wise partnership program. Please direct any questions or comments to:

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For further information please visit the Climate Wise Partners homepage:

<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/light/conserve/business/climatewise/>

Other useful Seattle City Light sites:

Global Warming homepage:

<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/light/conserve/GlobalWarming/>

Energy Smart Services homepage:

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/light/conserve/business/>

Green Power homepage:

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/light/green/greenpower/>

CLIMATE

NOAA REPORTS JANUARY WAS WARMEST ON RECORD (UNTIL MARCH, SEE BELOW)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced that average global temperatures in January made it the warmest month on record. And here in the contiguous United States, the three-month period from November 2001 through January 2002 was also the warmest on record. See the NOAA press release at:

<<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories/s869.htm>>.

NOAA REPORTS MARCH WAS WARMEST ON RECORD

According to scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), arctic air brought in by the jet stream was responsible for making this March the first cooler-than-average month in the U.S. since last

March. However, last month was the warmest March globally since reliable records began in 1880, said NOAA.

In addition to warmer-than-average temperatures across most global land areas in March, ocean surface temperatures were warmer than average in the eastern equatorial Pacific, as the evolution of oceanic conditions continued to indicate a developing El Nino episode, said NOAA. The agency also said the global sea surface temperature was the second warmest on record.

The average global temperature for land and ocean surfaces combined was 1.39 degrees Fahrenheit (F) above the 1880 to 2001 long-term mean for March, while global temperatures have increased approximately one degree F since 1900, said NOAA. However, the rate of warming during the past 25 years is almost three times greater.

NOAA said monthly temperatures more than seven degrees F above average stretched from Eastern Europe to the Russian Far East and much of Eastern China, with temperatures across a large part of Africa and the northern two-thirds of South America also warmer than usual.

Contact: Carmeyia Gillis, NOAA, phone 301-763-8000 extension 7163.

AND GETTING WARMER

Even warmer global temperatures are expected by this summer, as a continuing warming trend in the tropical Pacific waters signaled the likely development of El Nino conditions within the next three months, according to researchers at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. See the NOAA press release at: <<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories/s860.htm>>.

Meanwhile, new research from Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) suggests that El Nino events may be getting stronger due to global warming. CSIRO researchers say they have evidence that warm water in the oceans at high latitudes is being carried to the eastern equatorial Pacific by deep ocean currents. The researchers matched the observation to a global climate model, suggesting that global warming may have caused the shift in ocean currents. See the CSIRO press release at: <<http://www.csiro.au/index.asp?type=mediaRelease&id=WarmingUp>>.

From Environment News Service —

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE WARMING ALREADY IN EVIDENCE

<http://ens-news.com/ens/mar2002/2002L-03-29-06.html>

U.S. HAS WARMEST NOVEMBER - JANUARY EVER

<http://ens-news.com/ens/feb2002/2002L-02-22-09.html>

NEWS

TORONTO REDUCES GHG EMISSIONS BY 67 PERCENT

According to a recent report commissioned by the municipality of Toronto, Canada, the city has reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 67 percent since 1990, an amount significantly higher than its initial reduction goal of 20 percent.

Complete story:

<http://www.climatechangesolutions.com/climatechangesolutions/english/whatsnew/newsclips/news187.htm>

NEWEST CLIMATE WISE PARTNER: EVERGREEN RECYCLING

Evergreen Recycling became the region's 39th Climate Wise Partner when President David Lahaie signed a Climate Wise Partnership Agreement on March 26.

Evergreen Recycling, Inc. (ERI) is a small firm founded on the premise of cost effective, environmentally sound waste management. ERI provides superior solutions to managing wastes from industrial processes and remediation sites.

Learn more about Evergreen Recycling on their webpage:

<http://evergreenrecycling.com/>

NREL UPDATES TOP-TEN LIST OF UTILITY GREEN POWER PROGRAMS

DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) updated this month its popular top-ten lists of utility programs that sell green power, which is electricity from renewable energy sources. NREL ranks the most effective of these utility programs -- sometimes called "green pricing" programs -- based on customer participation, new renewable energy

installed capacity, and cost premiums.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power ranked first for total number of customers: its "Green Power for a Green L.A." program has 87,000 participants, although about half of those are low-income customers who are signed up at no cost. In terms of percentages, Moorhead Public Service of Minnesota comes in first with 7.0 percent of its customers signed up. For new renewable power capacity, Austin Energy of Texas takes first place with 76.9 megawatts of wind and solar power installed. And there's a three-way tie for the lowest premium, with two California utilities -- Roseville Electric and Sacramento Municipal Utility District -- and the Texas-New Mexico Power Company each charging customers just a penny extra per kilowatt-hour for green power. See the top-ten lists on the EREN Green Power Web site at: <<http://www.eren.doe.gov/greenpower/topten.shtml>>.

From Efficiency and Renewable Energy News —

PORTLAND SLATED FOR WIND TURBINE PLANT TO MEET HIGH DEMAND

Vestas Wind Systems A/S, a Danish manufacturer of wind turbines, announced last week that it will build a new wind turbine manufacturing facility in Portland, Oregon, to meet its growing North American market. The new facility will manufacture wind blades and towers and will assemble nacelles, the part of the turbine that houses the generator, drive mechanisms, and controls. Capable of producing 300 utility-scale turbines per year, the facility should start production in mid-2003 and reach full capacity by early 2004.

See the Vestas press release at:

<http://www.vestas.com/nyheder/presse/2002/UK/fond20020403_UK.html>.

Vestas made the announcement following its receipt of an order for 175 of its 660-kilowatt wind turbines from FPL Energy, LLC. The order calls for delivery of the turbines this year and next and includes an option for an additional 650 turbines. According to Vestas, the order has a value of about \$59 million initially and as much as \$272 million if the option is exercised. FPL Energy plans to build up to 2,000 megawatts of new wind power capacity by the end of 2003. See the FPL Energy press release at:

<<http://www.fplenergy.com/newsreleases/2002/02036.html>>.

FPL Energy is the developer, owner, and operator of the 263-megawatt Stateline Energy Center, a wind project that began full operation in December 2001 and was dedicated last week. See the FPL Energy press release at:
<<http://www.fplenergy.com/newsreleases/2002/02035.html>>.

The Vestas news may spur some additional interest in the Second Environmental Summit on the West, to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on April 24-26. Sponsored by the Western Governor's Association (WGA) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the summit will include a half-day breakout session on expanding the use of renewable energy resources in the West. Western governors will be joined by White House dignitaries at the event. See the WGA announcement at:
<http://www.westgov.org/wga/press/enlibra_summitll_announce.htm>.

STUDY: MOST NEW CAR BUYERS WOULD CONSIDER BUYING HYBRIDS

A survey of more than 5,200 recent U.S. car buyers found that 60 percent would give strong consideration to buying a hybrid electric vehicle. The survey, released by J.D. Power and Associates last week, found that most of these car buyers wanted a hybrid electric version of the vehicle class that they bought, the majority of which were minivans and sport utility vehicles. But nearly all selected a midsize hybrid electric car as their second choice, suggesting a strong market for midsize vehicles as well. And although the study found an 80 percent awareness of hybrid vehicles among new car buyers, it also found that many had misconceptions or lacked information about the vehicles and their features. See the J.D. Power press release at:
<http://www.jdpa.com/studies_jdpower/pressrelease.asp?StudyID=611>.

FUEL CELLS FOR VERIZON

One example of Verizon's corporate commitment to energy efficiency is the company's purchase of seven 200-kilowatt fuel cells for a critical call-routing center in Garden City on New York's Long Island. The 1.4-megawatt system will be the world's largest fuel cell installation and will also produce more than 6 million Btu of usable heat. Verizon will also install four generators powered by natural gas to form a

hybrid power system capable of generating up to 4.4 megawatts of electrical power. UTC Fuel Cells will provide the fuel cells for the system. See the UTC Fuel Cells press release at:

<<http://www.utcfuelcells.com/news/archive/032002.shtml>>.

BIODIESEL NEWS

NEW BIODIESEL PLANT TO PRODUCE 30 MILLION GALLONS ANNUALLY

Southern States Power Company Inc. announced plans last week to build a biodiesel production factory in Riverside, California, capable of producing 30 million gallons per year of biodiesel fuel. If built as planned, the biodiesel plant will be the largest in the United States. The company signed a memorandum of understanding with Lurgi PSI, Inc. to develop the facility. The company currently has a 10-million-gallon-per-year facility in Coachella, California, about 50 miles east of Riverside. See the March 14th press release on the Southern States Power Web site at:

<<http://www.sspowerco.net/newspress.cfm>>.

Biodiesel is also getting a boost in New York, where the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is spending nearly \$700,000 this year to advance the use of biodiesel in the state. NYSERDA announced Monday that \$320,000 will go to NOCO Energy Corporation in Tonawanda, New York, for the company to blend, market, and sell biodiesel in the Buffalo-Niagara area. A separate award of \$62,000 will help the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority to fuel 140 of its 330 buses with NOCO's biodiesel for at least a year. NOCO will use biodiesel to fuel its own fleet of trucks and will provide the fuel to the Town of Tonawanda for its municipal truck fleet. NOCO will also evaluate the use of bio-heating fuels in boilers and furnaces. See the NYSERDA press release at: <http://www.nyserda.org/press/2002/mar18_02.html>.

Biodiesel is making inroads throughout the country. The first public biodiesel pump in Missouri opened in early March in Jefferson City, and became the starting point for the journey of a biodiesel-fueled truck to Washington, D.C. See the press releases on the National Biodiesel Board's Web site

at: <<http://www.biodiesel.org/default2.htm>>.

And in late February, a marina in Fort Meyers, Florida, became the first in the state to offer a biodiesel blend. See the February 28th press release from WCI Communities, Inc. by selecting "Company News" on the home page at: <<http://www.wcicomunities.com/>>.

Do you need to locate a station that offers biodiesel or other alternative fuels? Try the newly redesigned "Alternative Fuel Station Map Site." The site has a simplified interface to help you find stations, and it now includes a "route mapper" that will help you find stations along a planned route. Sorry, but marinas aren't listed. See the Alternative Fuels Data Center Web site at: <http://www.afdc.doe.gov/refueling_mapsite.shtml>.

Want to know more about biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel? Visit the revamped DOE Biofuels Web site, located at: <<http://www.ott.doe.gov/biofuels/>>.

From Environment News Network —

BP REACHES CLIMATE GOALS EIGHT YEARS EARLY

PALO ALTO, California, March 12, 2002 (ENS) - Energy giant BP announced Monday it has reached its self imposed greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets eight years ahead of schedule, and is now expanding its efforts to combat global climate change. In a speech at Stanford University, BP chief executive Lord John Browne said the global warming goals were achieved at no net cost to the company.

For full text and graphics visit:

<http://ens-news.com/ens/mar2002/2002L-03-12-06.html>

BP Press release:

<http://www.bp.com/centres/press/stanford/index.asp>

A NEW PROFIT MOTIVE: THE BOTTOM LINE IS PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT

-- As protesters regularly disrupt meetings of the World Bank and the World Trade Organization, it s becoming apparent that many consumers want their goods to come

from companies that practice environmental and social responsibility.
http://enn.com/news/enn-stories/2002/02/02062002/s_46191.asp

RACE TO STOP GLOBAL WARMING EXPANDS TO FIVE CITIES
<http://www.enn.com/direct/display-release.asp?id=6523>

SEVEN HYBRID MODELS BY 2004
http://enn.com/news/wire-stories/2002/03/03122002/ap_46651.asp

From EIN —

MORE INVESTORS CALLING ATTENTION TO WARMING

Investment trend observers recently reported that shareholder resolutions on global warming are on the rise. According to the Investor Responsibility Research Center and the Social Investment Forum, some 18 resolutions have been filed thus far in 2002, compared with only seven in 2001.

The resolutions typically request that companies make public their estimated greenhouse gas emissions, or calculate the potential costs involved in reducing emissions. Company management generally opposes the resolutions, which are usually defeated because institutional investors tend to vote according to the company's suggestions.

However, the resolutions can be included in proxy materials sent to individual investors, although some companies request a waiver from this practice from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

For example, the SEC recently decided not to include a resolution to separate the positions of ExxonMobil's chief executive and chairman -- both held by Lee Raymond -- on the company's proxy. Activists drafted the resolution to highlight ExxonMobil's inaction on global warming.

A number of companies, including Sprint Corporation, Eastman Chemical Company, and General Electric Company, still face votes on global warming-related resolutions later this year.
(WALL STREET JOURNAL: 4/3)

CONWEB ISSUE 75 — March 30, 2002

Contents:

- 1) Oregon Trusts Energy Trust to Administer Most Public-Purposes Funding over Next Decade
- 2) Energy Trust Programs Mostly Utility Programs at First
- 3) Energy Trust Faces Many Issues as It Embarks on Public-Purposes Mission
- 4) New Public-Purposes Funding Agency Generates Attention in Oregon Conservation, Renewables Circles
- 5) Portland General Looks for Energy Efficiency Business Opportunities
- 6) PacifiCorp Winds Down Oregon Energy-Saving Programs as Public-Purposes Funding Debuts
- 7) Idaho Adopts First Statewide Commercial Energy Code
- 8) Energy Technology Showcase Conference/Exhibition Coming in October
- 9) 'Protect Our Home' Earth Day Theme Encompasses Energy Efficiency, Renewables

Full stories:

<http://www.newsdata.com/enernet/conweb/conweb.html>

REPORTS

U.S. EMISSIONS — SUMMARY REPORT

The Energy Information Administration (EIA), an independent statistical and analytical agency in the U.S. Department of Energy, released the annual report titled "Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States, 2000, on November 9, 2001. The summary version of the full report is now available.

This annual report is prepared by the EIA's Office of Integrated Analysis and Forecasting, pursuant to requirements under Section 1605(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT). Section 1605(a) of EPACT requires that the EIA, "shall develop, based on data available to, and obtained by the Energy Information Administration, an inventory of national aggregate emissions of each greenhouse gas for each calendar year of the baseline period of 1987 through 1990. The Administrator of the Energy Information Administration shall annually update and analyze such inventory using available data." The first report in this series, "Emissions of Greenhouse Gases 1985-1990," was published in September 1993. This report-the ninth annual report, as required by law, presents the Energy Information Administrations'

latest estimates of emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and other greenhouse gases.

To view the summary version of the full report in HTML and PDF formats:

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/ggrpt/summary/index.html>

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/ggrpt/summary/pdf/0573\(2000es\).pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/ggrpt/summary/pdf/0573(2000es).pdf)

SEATTLE EMISSIONS INVENTORY

In April, The Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment released its inventory and report on Seattle's Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Find the report on OSE's webpage (scroll down to links and click on Greenhouse Gas Inventory).

http://www.cityofseattle.net/environment/clean_air.htm

PEW CENTER ANALYSIS OF PRESIDENT BUSH'S FEBRUARY 14TH CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

<http://www.enn.com/direct/display-release.asp?id=6259>

REMINDERS

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